

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 135

Call to Order: By **REP. DEE BROWN**, on April 13, 2005 at 4:00 P.M., in Room 172 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Dee L. Brown, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Emelie Eaton (D)
Sen. Gerald Pease (D)
Rep. Rick Ripley (R)
Sen. Donald J. Steinbeisser (R)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent:

Sen. Dan Weinberg, Chairman (D)
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)

Staff Present: Kyanne Kelly, Committee Secretary
Leanne Kurtz, Legislative Branch

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 135, 4/11/2005
Executive Action: HB 135

EXECUTIVE ACTION HB 135

REP. DEE BROWN opened the meeting by telling the committee that HB 135 came out of an audit finding that if the state bought airline tickets in a group great deal of money could be saved. She stated that when the amendment was attached to the bill she asked the Auditor's Office if it was a good idea to put a 2008 termination date on the bill and the Auditors Office said it would be good to have the Legislative Audit Committee look at it in 2008 to see if it is working, but to terminate the bill would negate any progress if any is made.

REP. RICK RIPLEY said the Legislature should review it to see if the program is working or not.

REP. DEE BROWN said she would ask the Legislative Audit committee to put it on their list to follow up in 2008.

REP. DEE BROWN said there were valid concerns about if the buying plan would save money for the state, and whether the Department of Administration would become a big travel agency. She stated there wouldn't be any added costs as these are things that are already happening.

SEN. DONALD J. STEINBEISSER said having the Auditor look at it in 2008 would just be a follow up, all the work would already be done.

REP. DEE BROWN said if it needed more work they could follow up in 2009.

SEN. DONALD J. STEINBEISSER said the amendment was put into the bill to make sure it was looked at again to see if it was working.

REP. DEE BROWN said the state may have \$880,000 in savings from consolidating the buying.

Motion/Vote: **REP. RICK RIPLEY MOVED TO DELETE THE AMENDMENT THAT INCLUDED A TERMINATION DATE. Motion carried unanimously with all members present.**

All senators refused to sign the committee report because the meeting was chaired by a representative and all conference committees need to be chaired by a senator.

EXHIBIT(cch79hb0000a01)

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:10 A.M.

SEN. DAN WEINBERG, Chairman

KYANNE KELLY, Secretary

GP/DB/kk